



## *Cotton Insect Newsletter*

Volume 2, Issue #6

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

14 June 2007

### *Crop Situation*

The USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had us at 99% planted on 10 June 2007, ahead of the 5-yr average of 97% planted acres. Also reported was progress of 7% squaring, just behind the 5-yr average of 9%. None (0%) of the state's cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 32% good, 60% fair, 8% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### *News from Above the Lakes*

John Boswell in Williamsburg County reported late last week that “everything, including cotton is looking much better after the rains. About the only thing that I see is a lot of pigweed that is awaiting Roundup treatment. I do hope farmers will be on the lookout for any indications of Roundup resistance with any weeds they might have in their fields. Verification will be needed but this will start with close observations.” John also made a good point that we should “check spray tips for uniformity of delivery. Poor uniformity can cause problems with both insect and weed control. Cotton in Williamsburg County is really growing with the warm nights and moisture.”

### *News from Below the Lakes*

No news to report this week. This is your turn for input – send your comments and observations to me.

### *Thrips*

We should be winding down now on problems with thrips. Numbers of immature thrips are still pretty high in some mid-late-planted cotton, but numbers are declining. Cotton that was planted very late or cotton that was “dusted in” that is just now in the seedling stage after late emergence looks good and might escape significant injury from thrips. The dry weather changing over to moist conditions really allowed non-uniformity with our stands. Hopefully, that will not impact insect control significantly later on in the season. The warm temperatures and adequate moisture should promote vigorous growth, especially in the younger plants, so we should not have a big differential.

### *What's Next?*

As we move into the squaring period of growth, we need to be looking for the “usual suspects” this time of year. Those include the tobacco budworm/bollworm complex. Numbers of moths captured in pheromone traps are increasing, indicating that we should expect oviposition in cotton soon. We observed threshold numbers of tarnished plant bugs in some cotton fields last year just prior to and during the first week or two of bloom. Also, spider mites, aphids, and stink bugs should become prominent soon. Consult the latest recommendations for thresholds and suggested products and rates. Below is an “instant-view” threshold guide to provide some quick reminder information about perennial pests of cotton. Be sure to read the detailed description of each threshold in the recommendations: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

---

*Clemson University offers its programs to all eligible persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

*The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.*



### ***“Instant –View” Threshold Guide***

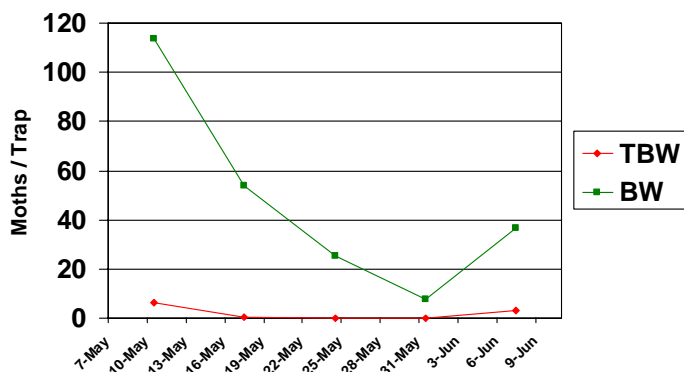
<b>Insect</b>	<b>Number per unit</b>
Stink bug (SB)	1 SB per 6 row feet or 20% injury to medium-sized bolls
Bollworm (BW) <i>1<sup>st</sup> generation Bt cotton</i>	>1 <sup>st</sup> bloom: 75 eggs, 30 small (<0.25 inch) or 3 larger (>0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants, or 5% damaged bolls
Bollworm <i>2<sup>nd</sup> generation Bt cotton</i>	No threshold using eggs or small larvae; >1 <sup>st</sup> bloom: 3 or more larger (>0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged bolls
Bollworm <i>Non-Bt cotton</i>	>1 <sup>st</sup> bloom: 20 or more eggs or 3 small (<0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged squares
Tobacco budworm (TBW) <i>Non-Bt cotton only – not found in Bt cotton</i>	<1 <sup>st</sup> bloom: 15 small (<0.25 inch) larvae per 100 plants or 20% damaged squares; >1 <sup>st</sup> bloom: 20 eggs or 3 small larvae per 100 plants or 5% damaged squares
Thrips	2-4 thrips per plant (less if immatures) and damage present
Aphids	50% of plants infested with actively growing colonies present
Fall armyworm (FAW)	10 or more per 100 plants, checking blooms and bolls
Spider mites	50% of plants infested with actively growing colonies present

This quick-view threshold guide was intended to be a quick reference for treatment thresholds for the most common insect pests of cotton in South Carolina. The sections described in IC97 include detailed information about thresholds and specific insecticide recommendations.

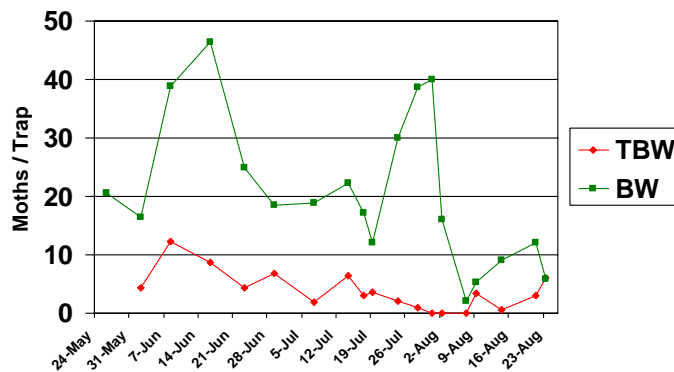
### **Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm**

Captures of adult tobacco budworm and bollworm in pheromone traps at EREC for this season and last season are pictured below. We detected a few tobacco budworms, and levels of bollworm capture are increasing. We are a little higher on bollworm capture than where we were last year at this time in terms of number per trap. I would expect numbers of bollworm moths to peak in the bollworm flight within the next couple of weeks. With all of the “extra” corn planted in the state this year, it makes sense that we could be in for heavy pressure from corn earworm (bollworm) in cotton this season.

**Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2007)**



**Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2006)**



Clemson University offers its programs to all eligible persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.



### **Printed Cotton Insect Recommendations**

Copies of the newly revised "Cotton Insect Management" (IC 97) recommendations are available at your local county office. You can visit the following website for an electronic version of the recommendations:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

### **Need More Information?**

Log on to the following webpages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

<http://www.clemson.edu/scg/ipm/cotton.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Cotton Entomologist

[green4@clemson.edu](mailto:green4@clemson.edu)

803-284-3343 (office)

803-300-1160 (mobile)



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

---

*Clemson University offers its programs to all eligible persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

*The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.*